CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1602
14 January 2000

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ON DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

I have the honour to transmit herewith those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session which make specific references to the Conference on Disarmament.

For the information of the Conference, I also have the honour to transmit herewith other resolutions and decisions, dealing with or related to disarmament and international security matters, adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

GE.99-60112

Annex

I. Resolutions that make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament

At its fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions that make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament:

54/44	"Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paragraphs 2 and 5)
54/52	"Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 5)
54/53	"Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 8)
54/54 C	"Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" (operative paragraphs 1, 4 and 5)
54/54 D	"Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons" (operative paragraphs 4 (b))
54/54 G	"Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda" (operative paragraphs 12 and 13)
54/54 M	"Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" (operative paragraph 2)
54/54 N	"Regional disarmament" (operative paragraph 1)
54/54 O	"Transparency in armaments" (operative paragraph 6)
54/54 P	"Nuclear Disarmament" (operative paragraphs 9, 10 and 11)
54/55 D	"Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (operative paragraphs 1 and 2)
54/56 A	"Report of the Disarmament Commission" (operative paragraph 4)
54/56 B	"Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8)

II. Other resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters

At the fifty-fourth session, the General Assembly also adopted the following resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters:

54/43	"Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures"
54/46	"Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification"
54/47	"Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace"
54/48	"African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)"
54/49	"Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security"
54/50	"Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament"
54/51	"Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East"
54/54 A	"Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile Systems"
54/54 B	"Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction"
54/54 E	"Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction"
54/54 F	"Missiles"
54/54 H	"Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures"
54/54 I	"Transparency in armaments"

54/54 J	"Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them"
54/54 K	"Reducing nuclear danger"
54/54 L	"Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas"
54/54 Q	"Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons"
54/54 R	"Illicit traffic in small arms"
54/54 S	"Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control"
54/54 T	"Relationship between disarmament and development"
54/54 U	"Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament"
54/54 V	"Small arms"
54/55 A	"Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa"
54/55 B	"United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa"
54/55 C	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific"
54/55 E	"United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament"
54/55 F	"United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"
54/57	"The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East"
54/58	"Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects"
54/59	"Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region"
54/60	"Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

54/61 "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction"

54/62 "Maintenance of international security-stability and development of South-Eastern Europe"

54/63 "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty"

In addition, the General Assembly also adopted four decisions on disarmament and international security issues: */

54/416 "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements"

54/417 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia"

54/418 "Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters"

54/419 "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security"

All documents and records on disarmament and international security items were distributed during the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all members of the Conference on Disarmament.

*/ These decisions will be issued as an addendum to this document at a later stage

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/43
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 64 (*b*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/551)*]

54/43. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/72 of 4 December 1998 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolutions 48/62 of 16 December 1993, 49/66 of 15 December 1994, 51/38 of 10 December 1996 and 52/32 of 9 December 1997, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General[1] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Noting the efforts of several regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures, including standardized annual exchanges of relevant information among their member States,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. *Recommends* the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. *Welcomes* the continuation by the Secretary-General of consultations with relevant international bodies with a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument to encourage wider participation;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with a report[1] on the outcome of those consultations, as well as for his intention to organize international and regional symposia and training seminars in the coming biennium, and notes his intention to encourage, *inter alia*, the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist Member States in their regions in enhancing their knowledge of the standardized reporting system;

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[1] A/54/298.

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, preferably and to the extent possible, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B or, as appropriate, any other format developed in conjunction with similar reporting on military expenditures to other international or regional organizations;

5. *Encourages* relevant international bodies and regional organizations to promote transparency of military expenditures and to enhance complementarity among reporting systems, taking into account the particular characteristics of each region, and to consider the possibility of an exchange of information with the United Nations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To continue the practice of sending an annual note verbale to Member States requesting the submission of data to the reporting system, together with the reporting format and related instructions, and to publish in a timely fashion in appropriate United Nations media the due date for transmitting data on military expenditures;

(*b*) To promote international and regional symposia and training seminars to explain the purpose of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and to give relevant technical instructions;

(*c*) To circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultations with relevant international bodies, within existing resources, with a view to ascertaining the requirements for adjusting the present instrument to encourage wider participation, with emphasis on examining possibilities for enhancing complementarity among international and regional reporting systems, and to exchange related information with those bodies;

8. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations, based on the outcome of those consultations and taking into account the views of Member States, on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

9. *Calls upon* all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the analysis and the recommendations contained in his report[1] and with further suggestions to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/46
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 68

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/555)*]

54/46. Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

The General Assembly,

Noting the critical importance of, and the vital contribution that has been made by, effective verification measures in arms limitation and disarmament agreements and other similar obligations,

Reaffirming its support for the sixteen principles of verification drawn up by the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 40/152 O of 16 December 1985, 41/86 Q of 4 December 1986, 42/42 F of 30 November 1987, 43/81 B of 7 December 1988, 45/65 of 4 December 1990, 47/45 of 9 December 1992, 48/68 of 16 December 1993, 50/61 of 12 December 1995 and 52/31 of 9 December 1997,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General of 11 July 1986, 28 August 1990, 16 September 1992, 26 July 1993, 22 September 1995, 6 August 1997 and 9 July 1999, and the addenda thereto,[2]

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No.3* (A/S-15/3), para. 60 (para. 6, sect. I, of the quoted text).

[2] A/41/422 and Add.1 and 2, A/45/372 and Corr.1, A/47/405 and Add.1, A/48/227 and Add.1 and 2, A/50/377 and Corr.1, A/52/269 and A/54/166.

1. *Reaffirms* the critical importance of, and the vital contribution that has been made by, effective verification measures in arms limitation and disarmament agreements and other similar obligations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on further views received from Member States pursuant to resolutions 50/61 and 52/31;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification".

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1 December 1999

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/54/44
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 65

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/552)*]

54/44. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling also its resolution 51/37 of 10 December 1996 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1]

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,[2]

Noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

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GENERAL

A/RES/54/47
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 69

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/556)*]

54/47. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 52/44 of 9 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,[1]

Recalling further paragraph 148 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[2] in which it was noted, *inter alia*, that the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean would continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee,

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches, in particular given the prevailing international climate, which is conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries of the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45* and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

[2] See A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

Convinced that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would assist the progress of a mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Considering that greater efforts and more time are required to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[3]

2. *Reiterates its conviction* that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. *Requests* the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to continue his informal consultations with the members of the Committee and to report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render, within existing resources, all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 29* (A/54/29).

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/54/48
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 70

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/557)*]

54/48. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/46 of 9 December 1997 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling also the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] that was held in Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling further the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion,[2] which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

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[1] See A/50/426.

[2] A/51/113-S/1996/276, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1996*, document S/1996/276.

Noting the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[3] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

1. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the nuclear-weapon States that have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon those that have not yet ratified the Protocols concerning them to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty that have not yet done so to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, *de jure* or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. *Calls upon* the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[4] that have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (*b*) of and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force, and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[5]

5. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

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[3] *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1996*, document S/PRST/1996/17.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[5] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540 (Corrected).

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/49
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 71

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/558)*]

54/49. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/70 of 4 December 1998,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, *inter alia*, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of mankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling in this connection the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Taking note of the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and of the recommendations it made,[1]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the security of States in both civilian and military fields,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the misuse or exploitation of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolution 53/70,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,[2]

Welcoming the timely initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts at Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Considering that the assessments of Member States contained in the report of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security, related notions and possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security;

2. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(*a*) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(*b*) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(*c*) Advisability of developing international principles that would enhance the security of global information and telecommunications systems and help to combat information terrorism and criminality;

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[1] A/51/261, annex.

[2] A/54/213.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

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1 December 1999

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/50
23 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 72

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/559)*]

54/50. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of advanced weapon systems and, in particular, weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Also cognizant of the need to regulate such transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications through multilaterally negotiated, universally applicable, non-discriminatory guidelines,

Expressing concern over the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies, which tend to impede the economic and social development of developing countries,

Recalling that in the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[1] it was noted with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and the requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access to high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. *Affirms* that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. *Invites* Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. *Urges* Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. *Takes note* of the report, including its addendum, submitted by the Secretary-General in pursuance of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 53/73 of 4 December 1998;[2]

5. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

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[1] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[2] A/54/167 and Add.1.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/51
7 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 73

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/560)*]

54/51. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994, 50/66 of 12 December 1995, 51/41 of 10 December 1996, 52/34 of 9 December 1997 and 53/74 of 4 December 1998 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (*d*), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1]

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in

[1] Resolution S-10/2.

any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/74,[2]

1. *Urges* all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[3]

2. *Calls upon* all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

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[2] A/54/190 and Add.1.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

3. *Takes note* of resolution GC(43)/RES/23, adopted on 1 October 1999 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-third regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

4. *Notes* the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. *Invites* all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (*d*) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. *Also invites* those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

9. *Invites* all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report[4] or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

69th plenary meeting
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[4] A/45/435.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/52
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 74

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/561)*]

54/52. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament[2] submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session,[3] the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,[4] the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,[5]

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, *inter alia*, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,[6] with a view to reaching agreement on this question,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under the item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[7] as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

[4] Ibid., *Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

[5] Ibid., *Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), sect. III.F.

[6] Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/48/27), para. 39.

[7] See A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all the nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against the non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994, 50/68 of 12 December 1995, 51/43 of 10 December 1996, 52/36 of 9 December 1997 and 53/75 of 4 December 1998,

1. *Reaffirms* the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties with regard to evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

3. *Appeals* to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. *Recommends* that further intensive efforts be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. *Recommends also* that the Conference on Disarmament actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/53
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 75

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/562)*]

54/53. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also the provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

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[1] Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue, and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,[3] and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Noting also that there were no objections in principle in the Conference on Disarmament to the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee, subject to re-examination of the mandate contained in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament of 13 February 1992,[4]

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, *inter alia*, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/49/27), sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

[4] CD/1125.

Recognizing that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;[1]

2. *Reaffirms its recognition*, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important to comply strictly with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. *Emphasizes* the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. *Calls upon* all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. *Reiterates* that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to complete the examination and updating of the mandate contained in its decision of 13 February 1992[4] and to establish an ad hoc committee as early as possible during the 2000 session of the Conference on Disarmament;

7. *Recognizes*, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. *Urges* States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the matter, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/54
10 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 76

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/563)*]

54/54. General and complete disarmament

A

PRESERVATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE TREATY ON THE LIMITATION OF ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/60 of 12 December 1995 and 52/30 of 9 December 1997 on compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements,

Recognizing the historical role of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems of 26 May 1972 between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [1] as a cornerstone for maintaining global peace and security and strategic stability, and reaffirming its continued validity and relevance, especially in the current international situation,

Stressing the paramount importance of full and strict compliance with the Treaty by the parties,

Recalling that the provisions of the Treaty are intended as a contribution to the creation of more favourable conditions for further negotiations on limiting strategic arms,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 944, No. 13446.

Mindful of the obligations of the parties to the Treaty under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2]

Concerned that the implementation of any measures undermining the purposes and provisions of the Treaty affects not only the security interests of the parties, but also those of the whole international community,

Recalling the widespread concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery,

1. *Calls* for continued efforts to strengthen the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems and to preserve its integrity and validity so that it remains a cornerstone in maintaining global strategic stability and world peace and in promoting further strategic nuclear arms reductions;

2. *Calls also* for renewed efforts by each of the States parties to preserve and strengthen the Treaty through full and strict compliance;

3. *Calls upon* the parties to the Treaty, in accordance with their obligations under the Treaty, to limit the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems and refrain from the deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems for the defence of the territory of their country and not to provide a base for such a defence, and not to transfer to other States or deploy outside their national territory anti-ballistic missile systems or their components limited by the Treaty;

4. *Considers* that the implementation of any measure undermining the purposes and the provisions of the Treaty also undermines global strategic stability and world peace and the promotion of further strategic nuclear arms reductions;

5. *Urges* all Member States to support efforts aimed at stemming the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;

6. *Supports* further efforts by the international community, in the light of emerging developments, towards safeguarding the inviolability and integrity of the Treaty, which is in the strongest interest of the international community;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems".

69th plenary meeting
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[2] Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

B

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 N of 4 December 1998,

Reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Believing it necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and to assure their destruction,

Wishing to do the utmost in ensuring assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including the social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,

Welcoming the entry into force on 1 March 1999 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[3]

Recalling the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held at Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999, and the reaffirmation made in the Maputo Declaration[4] of a commitment to the total eradication of anti-personnel mines,

Noting with satisfaction the addition of new States signatories to the Convention, the rapid ratification by many signatories, and the accession to the Convention by other States, bringing the total number of States that have signed to one hundred and thirty-three, and that eighty-nine States have ratified or acceded to the Convention in the two years since it was opened for signature,

Emphasizing the desirability of attracting the adherence of all States to the Convention, and determined to work strenuously towards the promotion of its universalization,

Noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,

1. *Invites* all States that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[3] to accede it without delay;

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[3] See CD/1478.

[4] APLC/MSP.1/1999/1, part II.

2. *Urges* all States that have signed but not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the full and effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Convention;

4. *Urges* all States parties to provide the Secretary-General with complete and timely information, as required in article 7 of the Convention in order to promote transparency and compliance with the Convention;

5. *Invites* all States that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;

6. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims, mine awareness programmes, and the removal of anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and the assurance of their destruction;

7. *Invites and encourages* all interested States, the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to participate in the programme of inter-sessional work established at the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the Convention, to undertake the preparations necessary to convene the Second Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention at Geneva, from 11 to 15 September 2000, and, on behalf of States parties and according to article 11, paragraph 4, of the Convention, to invite States not parties to the Convention, as well as the United Nations, other relevant international organizations or institutions, regional organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and relevant non-governmental organizations to attend the Meeting as observers;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

C

PROHIBITION OF THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153(XLVIII) of 1988[5] and CM/Res.1225(L) of 1989,[6] adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,[7]

Also welcoming resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session,[8] inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

Taking note of the commitment by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,[9]

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,[10] *inter alia*, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356(LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[11] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

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[5] See A/43/398, annex I.

[6] See A/44/603, annex I.

[7] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17-21 September 1990* (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

[8] Ibid., *Thirty-eighth Regular Session, 19-23 September 1994* (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC (1994)).

[9] A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

[10] The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[11] See A/46/390, annex I.

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 51/45 J of 10 December 1996,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[12] the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. *Takes note* of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;[13]

2. *Expresses grave concern* regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. *Calls upon* all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. *Also requests* the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

6. *Takes note* of resolution CM/Res.1356(LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. *Expresses the hope* that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption at Vienna on 5 September 1997 of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management,[14] as recommended by the participants in the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, and the signing of the Joint Convention by a number of States beginning on 29 September 1997, and appeals to all States to sign and subsequently ratify, accept or approve the Convention, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

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[12] Resolution S-10/2.

[13] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/54/27), chap. III, sect. E.

[14] See GOV/INF/821-GC(41)/INF/12, appendix I.

D

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT WITH A VIEW TO THE ULTIMATE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 H of 15 December 1994, 50/70 C of 12 December 1995, 51/45 G of 10 December 1996, 52/38 K of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 U of 4 December 1998,

Bearing in mind the recent nuclear tests, as well as the regional situations, which pose a challenge to international efforts to strengthen the global regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Noting the progress made in commencing the discussions between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on START III,

Welcoming the efforts to increase transparency in nuclear disarmament activities as a contribution towards building international confidence and security,

Also welcoming the international efforts to promote the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[15] at the conference convened at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999[16] in accordance with article XIV of the Treaty,

Taking note of the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament,[17] bearing in mind the views of Member States on the report,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament mutually complement and strengthen each other,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] as the cornerstone of the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation and as an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Also reaffirming the conviction that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, ensuring international peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2] and calls upon States not parties to the Treaty to accede to it without delay and without conditions;

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[15] See resolution 50/245.

[16] See A/54/514-S/1999/1102, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1102.

[17] A/54/205-S/1999/853, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1999*, document S/1999/853.

2. *Also reaffirms* the importance for all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty;

3. *Calls* for the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

4. *Stresses* that, in order to make advancements towards the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, it is important and necessary to pursue such actions as:

(*a*) The early signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[15] by all States, especially by those States whose ratification is required for its entry into force, with a view to its early entry into force, as well as the cessation of nuclear tests pending its entry into force;

(*b*) Intensive negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on the early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator of 1995[18] and the mandate contained therein, and, pending its entry into force, a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons;

(*c*) Multilateral discussions on possible future steps on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation;

(*d*) The early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II)[19] and the early commencement and conclusion of negotiations for START III by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and the continuation of the process beyond START III;

(*e*) Further efforts by the five nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally and through their negotiations;

5. *Invites* the nuclear-weapon States to keep the States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress or efforts made towards nuclear disarmament;

6. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts in the dismantlement of nuclear weapons, notes the importance of the safe and effective management of the resultant fissile material, and calls for continued efforts by States that possess fissile material no longer required for defence purposes to make such material available for safeguards by the International Atomic Energy Agency as soon as practicable;

7. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, *inter alia*, nuclear weapons, confirming and strengthening if necessary their policies not to export equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to the proliferation of those weapons;

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[18] CD/1299.

[19] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 18: 1993 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.1), appendix II.

8. *Stresses* the importance of the Model Protocol Additional to the Agreement(s) between State(s) and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards[20] for ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, and encourages all States that have not done so to conclude an additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency as soon as possible;

9. *Underlines* the vital importance of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for the preservation and strengthening of the regime anchored in the Treaty, and calls upon all States parties to the Treaty to reaffirm the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty[21] and to intensify their efforts with a view to reaching an agreement on updated objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, based on a review of the achievements since 1995;

10. *Encourages* the constructive role played by civil society in promoting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

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E

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 53/77 R of 4 December 1998, adopted without a vote, in which it noted with appreciation the ongoing work to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[22]

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that, since the adoption of resolution 53/77 R, six additional States have ratified the Convention, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to one hundred and twenty-six,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objective and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development,

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[20] International Atomic Energy Agency, INFCIRC/540(Corrected).

[21] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

[22] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), appendix I.

Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

3. *Also stresses* the vital importance of full and effective implementation of and compliance with all provisions of the Convention;

4. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of universal adherence to the Convention, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become States parties to the Convention without delay;

6. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities and chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

7. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and efforts towards the prompt conclusion of a relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

F

MISSILES

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of arms regulation and disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps to strengthen that role,

Realizing the need to promote regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles, in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, as a contribution to international peace and security,

Bearing in mind that the security concerns of Member States at the international and regional levels should be taken into consideration in addressing the issue of missiles,

Underlining the complexities involved in considering the issue of missiles in the conventional context,

Expressing its support for the international efforts against the development and proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of all Member States on the issue of missiles in all its aspects, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

2. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Missiles".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

G

TOWARDS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD: THE NEED FOR A NEW AGENDA

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to the survival of humanity,

Concerned at the prospect of the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons, believing that the contention that nuclear weapons can be retained in perpetuity and never used is not supported by the history of human experience, and convinced that the only complete defence is the elimination of nuclear weapons and the assurance that they will never be produced again,

Concerned also at the continued retention of the nuclear-weapons option by those three States that are nuclear-weapons-capable and that have not acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2] and concerned at their failure to renounce that option,

Concerned further that negotiations on nuclear arms reductions are currently stalled,

Bearing in mind that the overwhelming majority of States have entered into legally binding commitments not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and recalling that these undertakings were made in the context of the corresponding legally binding commitments by the nuclear-weapon States to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice in its 1996 advisory opinion[23] that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

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[23] *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion, 8 July 1996* (A/51/218, annex).

Stressing that the international community must not enter the new millennium with the prospect that the possession of nuclear weapons will be considered legitimate for the indefinite future, and convinced of the imperative to proceed with determination to prohibit and eradicate them for all time,

Recognizing that the total elimination of nuclear weapons will require measures to be taken firstly by those nuclear-weapon States that have the largest arsenals, and stressing that these States must be joined in a seamless process by those nuclear-weapon States with lesser arsenals in the near future,

Welcoming the achievements to date and the future promise of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks process and the possibility it offers for development as a plurilateral mechanism including all the nuclear-weapon States, for the practical dismantling and destruction of nuclear armaments undertaken in pursuit of the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming also the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure the irreversible removal of fissile materials from weapons programmes,

Believing that there are a number of practical steps that the nuclear-weapon States can and should take immediately before the actual elimination of nuclear arsenals and the development of requisite verification regimes take place, and in this connection noting certain recent unilateral and other steps,

Underlining that the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems[1] remains a cornerstone of strategic stability,

Stressing that each article of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is binding on the respective States parties at all times and in all circumstances,

Stressing also the importance of pursuing negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in the Ad Hoc Committee established under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[18] and the mandate contained therein, on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and considering that such a treaty must further underpin the process towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing that, for the total elimination of nuclear weapons to be achieved, effective international cooperation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons is vital and must be enhanced through, *inter alia*, the extension of international controls over all fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,

Emphasizing also the importance of existing nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties and of the early signature and ratification of the relevant protocols to those treaties,

Noting the joint ministerial declaration of 9 June 1998[24] and its call for a new international agenda to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, through the pursuit, in parallel, of a series of mutually reinforcing measures at the bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral levels,

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[24] A/53/138, annex.

Acknowledging the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/77 Y of 4 December 1998,[25]

Taking note of the observations of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[26]

1. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the speedy and total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and to engage without delay in an accelerated process of negotiations, thus achieving nuclear disarmament, to which they are committed under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[2]

2. *Calls upon* the United States of America and the Russian Federation to bring the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II)[19] into force without further delay and to commence negotiations on START III with a view to its early conclusion;

3. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the necessary steps towards the seamless integration of all five nuclear-weapon States into the process leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls* for the examination of ways and means to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security policies so as to enhance strategic stability, facilitate the process of the elimination of these weapons and contribute to international confidence and security;

5. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, in this context, to take early steps:

(*a*) To reduce tactical nuclear weapons with a view to their elimination as an integral part of nuclear arms reductions;

(*b*) To examine the possibilities for and to proceed to the de-alerting and removal of nuclear warheads from delivery vehicles;

(*c*) To examine nuclear weapons policies and postures further;

(*d*) To demonstrate transparency with regard to their nuclear arsenals and fissile material inventories;

(*e*) To place all fissile material for nuclear weapons declared to be in excess of military requirements under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards in the framework of the voluntary safeguards agreements in place;

6. *Calls upon* those three States that are nuclear weapons capable and that have not yet acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reverse clearly and urgently the pursuit of all nuclear weapons development or deployment and to refrain from any action that could undermine regional and international peace and security and the efforts of the international community towards nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

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[25] A/54/372.

[26] Ibid., sect. III.A.

7. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to adhere unconditionally and without delay to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to take all the necessary measures which flow from adherence to that instrument as non-nuclear-weapon States;

8. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to conclude full-scope safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements on the basis of the Model Protocol approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;[20]

9. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify, unconditionally and without delay, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[15] and, pending the entry into force of the Treaty, to observe a moratorium on nuclear tests;

10. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material[27] and to work towards its further strengthening;

11. *Urges* the development of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and urges that similar arrangements be developed by the other nuclear-weapon States;

12. *Calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator[18] and the mandate contained therein, of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, taking into consideration both nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament objectives, and to pursue and conclude these negotiations without delay, and, pending the entry into force of the treaty, urges all States to observe a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

13. *Also calls upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish an appropriate subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament and, to that end, to pursue as a matter of priority its intensive consultations on appropriate methods and approaches with a view to reaching such a decision without delay;

14. *Considers* that an international conference on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which would effectively complement efforts being undertaken in other settings, could facilitate the consolidation of a new agenda for a nuclear-weapon-free world;

15. *Notes*, in this context, that the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 will consider peace, security and disarmament;

16. *Stresses* the importance of the full implementation of the decisions and the resolution adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[21] and, in this connection, underlines the significance of the forthcoming Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in April/May 2000;

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[27] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1456, No. 24631.

17. *Affirms* that the development of verification arrangements will be necessary for the maintenance of a world free from nuclear weapons, and requests the International Atomic Energy Agency, together with any other relevant international organizations and bodies, to continue to explore the elements of such a system;

18. *Calls* for the conclusion of an internationally legally binding instrument to effectively assure non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

19. *Stresses* that the pursuit, extension and establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East and South Asia, represent a significant contribution to the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

20. *Affirms* that a nuclear-weapon-free world will ultimately require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to compile a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda", and to review the implementation of the present resolution.

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1 December 1999

H

CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE THROUGH PRACTICAL DISARMAMENT MEASURES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 52/38 G of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 M of 4 December 1998,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, *inter alia*, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development in areas that have suffered from conflict,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,[28] and in particular the recommendations contained therein, as an important contribution to the consolidation of the peace process through practical disarmament measures,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N"[29] at the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission;

2. *Stresses* the particular relevance of the guidelines in the context of the present resolution;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures, submitted pursuant to resolution 51/45 N,[30] and once again encourages Member States, as well as regional arrangements and agencies, to lend their support to the implementation of recommendations contained therein;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the group of interested States that was formed in New York in March 1998, and invites the group to continue to analyse lessons learned from previous disarmament and peace-building projects, as well as to promote new practical disarmament measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves;

5. *Encourages* Member States, including the group of interested States, to lend their support to the Secretary-General in responding to requests by Member States to collect and destroy small arms and light weapons in post-conflict situations;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

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[28] A/54/258.

[29] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42), annex III.

[30] A/52/289.

I

TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

Considering the urgent need to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of all types of armaments,

Considering also that openness and transparency relating to all types of armaments would contribute greatly to confidence-building and security among States,

Recognizing that an enhanced level of transparency relating to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction and transfers of equipment and technologies directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications, would promote stability, strengthen regional and international peace and security, and accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament,

Convinced that the principle of transparency should also apply to all weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons, as well as to high technology with military applications,

Recognizing that the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[31] in its current form, constitutes an important first step towards the promotion of transparency in military matters on a comprehensive, universal and non-discriminatory basis,

Aware of the need to foster international efforts in this direction through, *inter alia*, the constant review of the operation of the Register with a view to its development,

Stressing the need to achieve universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2] and of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[22] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[32] with a view to realizing the goal of the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling its earlier resolutions on transparency in armaments,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on transparency in armaments;[33]

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[31] See resolution 46/36 L.

[32] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[33] A/54/226 and Add.1 and 2.

2. *Recalls* the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which convened in 1994 and 1997 to consider the continuing operation of the Register[31] and its development, and the views expressed and proposals presented therein;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving greater progress in the development of the Register in order that it may truly enhance confidence-building and security among States and accelerate efforts towards attainment of general and complete disarmament;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts to be convened in the year 2000 and taking into account the views submitted by Member States, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on:

(*a*) The early expansion of the scope of the Register;

(*b*) The elaboration of practical means for the development of the Register in order to increase transparency related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and to transfers of equipment and technology directly related to the development and manufacture of such weapons;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

J

ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR CURBING THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS AND COLLECTING THEM

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 B of 4 December 1998,

Considering that the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms constitute an impediment to development, a threat to populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms in the States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Welcoming the conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Welcoming also the designation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat as the coordination centre for all United Nations activities concerning small arms,

Thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[34] and bearing in mind the statement on small arms made by the President of the Security Council on 24 September 1999,[35]

Welcoming the recommendations made at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

Welcoming also the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,

Recalling the Algiers Declaration[36] adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999, and bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the common understanding reached at the meeting on small arms held at Oslo on 13 and 14 July 1998[37] and the Brussels Call for Action adopted by the International Conference on Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development, held at Brussels on 12 and 13 October 1998,[38]

1. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

2. *Also encourages* the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to support as far as possible the smooth functioning of the national commissions where they have been set up;

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[34] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[35] S/PRST/1999/28; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1999*.

[36] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Decl.1 (XXXV).

[37] See CD/1556.

[38] A/53/681, annex.

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration of a Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States at Abuja on 31 October 1998,[39] and urges the international community to give its support to the implementation of the moratorium;

4. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Bamako on 24 and 25 March 1999, on the modalities for the implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development, and welcomes the adoption at the meeting of a plan of action;

5. *Expresses its full support* for the appeal launched by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session for a coordinated African approach, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, to the problems posed by the illicit proliferation and circulation of and traffic in small arms, bearing in mind the experiences and activities of the various regions in this regard;[40]

6. *Also expresses its full support* for the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects no later than 2001, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/77 E of 4 December 1998;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the question and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

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1 December 1999

K

REDUCING NUCLEAR DANGER

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Reaffirming that any use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

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[39] A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1194.

[40] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV), para. 10.

Convinced that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war,

Convinced also that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Considering that until nuclear weapons cease to exist, it is imperative on the part of the nuclear-weapon States to adopt measures that assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering also that the hair-trigger alert of nuclear weapons carries unacceptable risks of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, which would have catastrophic consequences for all mankind,

Emphasizing the imperative need to adopt measures to avoid accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incidents arising from computer anomaly or other technical malfunctions before the next millennium,

Conscious that limited steps relating to detargeting have been taken by the nuclear-weapon States and that further practical, realistic and mutually reinforcing steps are necessary to contribute to the improvement in the international climate for negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Mindful that reduction of tensions brought about by a change in nuclear doctrines would positively impact on international peace and security and improve the conditions for the further reduction and the elimination of nuclear weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[12] and by the international community,

Recalling that the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*[41] states that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

1. *Calls* for a review of nuclear doctrines and, in this context, immediate and urgent steps to reduce the risks of unintentional and accidental use of nuclear weapons;

2. *Requests* the five nuclear-weapon States to undertake measures towards the implementation of paragraph 1 of the present resolution;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to promote nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;

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[41] A/51/218, annex.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to seek inputs from the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on information with regard to specific measures that would significantly reduce the risk of nuclear war and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Reducing nuclear danger".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

L

NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND ADJACENT AREAS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 B of 10 December 1996, 52/38 N of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 Q of 4 December 1998,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session of a text entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned",[42]

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions on nuclear-weapon-free zones of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[12] the first special session devoted to disarmament, as well as of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[43]

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[42] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42), annex I.

[43] *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 2.

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,[44] Rarotonga,[45] Bangkok[45] and Pelindaba,[47] establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,[48] to, *inter alia*, the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons, and underlining also the value of enhancing cooperation among the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty members by means of mechanisms such as joint meetings of States parties, signatories and observers to those treaties,

Recalling the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to the freedom of the high seas and the rights of passage through maritime space, including those of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[49]

1. *Welcomes* the continued contribution that the Antarctic Treaty[48] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[44] Rarotonga,[45] Bangkok[46] and Pelindaba[47] are making towards freeing the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls* for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all States of the region concerned, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. *Welcomes* the steps taken to conclude further nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, and calls upon all States to consider all relevant proposals, including those reflected in General Assembly resolutions on the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and South Asia;

4. *Reiterates* the important role of nuclear-weapon-free zones in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and in extending the areas of the world that are nuclear-weapon-free, and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, calls upon all States to support the process of nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

5. *Calls upon* the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to pursue the common goals envisaged in those treaties and to promote the nuclear-weapon-free status of the southern hemisphere and adjacent areas, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation among themselves and their treaty agencies;

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[44] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[45] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 10: 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IX.7), appendix VII.

[46] Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

[47] A/50/426, annex.

[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 402, No. 5778.

[49] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

6. *Encourages* the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

M

CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994, 50/70 L of 12 December 1995, 51/45 Q of 10 December 1996, 52/38 Q of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 P of 4 December 1998,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,[50] which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States and States with larger military capabilities have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

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[50] CD/1064.

1. *Decides* to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

N

REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994, 50/70 K of 12 December 1995, 51/45 K of 10 December 1996, 52/38 P of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 O of 4 December 1998 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,[12]

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,[51]

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

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[51] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/48/42), annex II.

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of all States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. *Stresses* that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. *Affirms* that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. *Supports and encourages* efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

O

TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994, 50/70 D of 12 December 1995, 51/45 H of 10 December 1996, 52/38 R of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 V of 4 December 1998 entitled "Transparency in armaments",

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[31] constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register,[33] which contains the returns of Member States for 1998,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. *Reaffirms* its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,[31] as provided for in paragraphs 7 to 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, with a view to achieving universal participation, to provide the Secretary-General by 31 May annually with the requested data and information for the Register, including nil reports if appropriate, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the recommendations contained in paragraph 64 of the 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development;[52]

3. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so, pending further development of the Register, to provide additional information on procurement from national production and military holdings and to make use of the "Remarks" column in the standardized reporting form to provide additional information such as types and models;

4. *Reaffirms* its decision, with a view to further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review and, to that end, recalls:

(*a*) Its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(*b*) Its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 2000, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and his reports on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[53] with a view to a decision at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

6. *Invites* the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

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[52] A/52/316 and Corr.2.

[53] A/49/316 and A/52/316 and Corr.2.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

P

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolutions 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, 51/45 O of 10 December 1996, 52/38 L of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 X of 4 December 1998 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972[32] and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1993[22] have already established legal regimes on the complete prohibition of biological and chemical weapons, respectively, and determined to achieve a nuclear weapons convention on the prohibition of the development, testing, production, stockpiling, loan, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention at an early date,

Recognizing that there now exist conditions for the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[12] the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time-frames, wherever feasible, for the progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Noting the reiteration by the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] of their conviction that the Treaty is a cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the reaffirmation by the States parties of the importance of the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty,[21] the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament,[21] the decision on the extension of the Treaty[21] and the resolution on the Middle East,[21] adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reiterating the highest priority accorded to nuclear disarmament in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly and by the international community,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[15] and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on the joint undertaking of no first use of nuclear weapons by the nuclear-weapon States and on adequate security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of such weapons for non-nuclear-weapon States, respectively, and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, should be integral measures in a programme leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START I),[54] to which Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START II)[19] by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I and START II Treaties by the States parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all the nuclear-weapon States,

Welcoming further the joint declaration of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to commence START III negotiations, regardless of the status of completion of the START II process,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[41] and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

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[54] *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 16: 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IX.1), appendix II.

Mindful of paragraph 114 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[55] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations in 1998 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Bearing in mind the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons,[56] and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

Commending the initiative by twenty-six delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21[57] proposing a comprehensive mandate for an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, which includes negotiations for, as a first step, a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, an agreement on further steps required in a phased programme leading to the total elimination of these weapons and a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the Special Coordinator on that item[18] and the views relating to the scope of the treaty,

Recalling paragraphs 38 to 50 of the final communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999,[58]

Taking note of the draft decision and mandate on the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament proposed by the Group of 21,[59]

1. *Recognizes* that, in view of recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all the nuclear-weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons;

2. *Also recognizes* that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

3. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. *Also urges* the nuclear-weapon States, as an interim measure, to de-alert and deactivate immediately their nuclear weapons;

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[55] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[56] A/C.1/51/12, annex.

[57] CD/1463.

[58] A/54/469-S/1999/1063, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1063.

[59] CD/1571.

5. *Calls* for the conclusion, as a first step, of a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing States to the process of nuclear disarmament leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

6. *Reiterates its calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons;

7. *Calls upon* the nuclear-weapon States, pending the achievement of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to agree on an internationally and legally binding instrument on the joint undertaking not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and calls upon all States to conclude an internationally and legally binding instrument on security assurances of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States;

8. *Urges* the nuclear-weapon States to commence plurilateral negotiations among themselves at an appropriate stage on further deep reductions of nuclear weapons as an effective measure of nuclear disarmament;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment in the Conference on Disarmament in 1998 of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, urges a speedy conclusion of a universal and non-discriminatory convention thereon, welcomes the establishment in 1998 of the Ad Hoc Committee on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and urges the pursuit of efforts in this regard as a matter of priority;

10. *Expresses its regret* that the Conference on Disarmament was unable to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament at its 1999 session, as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/77 X;

11. *Reiterates its call upon* the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 2000 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons, through a set of legal instruments, which may include a nuclear weapons convention;

12. *Calls* for the convening of an international conference on nuclear disarmament at an early date with the objective of arriving at an agreement or agreements on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual total elimination of nuclear weapons, through a set of legal instruments, which may include a nuclear weapons convention;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

Q

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ADVISORY OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE *LEGALITY OF THE THREAT OR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS*

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, 51/45 M of 10 December 1996, 52/38 O of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 W of 4 December 1998,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth, and recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[2] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[43] and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recalling also the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, and expressing its satisfaction at the increasing number of States that have signed and ratified the Treaty,

Recognizing with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty[48] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[44] Rarotonga,[45] Bangkok[46] and Pelindaba[47] are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons,

Noting the efforts by the States possessing the largest inventories of nuclear weapons to reduce their stockpiles of such weapons through bilateral agreements or arrangements and unilateral decisions, and calling for the intensification of such efforts to accelerate the significant reduction of nuclear-weapon arsenals,

Recognizing the need for a multilaterally negotiated and legally binding instrument to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, and regretting the lack of progress in disarmament negotiations, particularly nuclear disarmament, in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1999 session,

Emphasizing the need for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996,[41]

Taking note of the relevant portions of the note by the Secretary-General[60] relating to the implementation of resolution 53/77 W,

1. *Underlines once again* the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

2. *Calls once again upon* all States immediately to fulfil that obligation by commencing multilateral negotiations in 2000 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

3. *Requests* all States to inform the Secretary-General of the efforts and measures they have taken on the implementation of the present resolution and nuclear disarmament, and requests the Secretary-General to apprise the General Assembly of that information at its fifty-fifth session;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

R

ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN SMALL ARMS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report on the results of his broad-based consultations on the magnitude and scope of the phenomenon of illicit trafficking in small arms and light

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[60] A/54/161 and Add.1.

weapons, possible measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,[61]

Convinced of the importance of national, regional and international measures to combat illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons, including those suited to indigenous regional approaches,

Welcoming in this regard the decision on the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[62] the entry into force of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials,[63] the decision on prevention and combating of illicit trafficking in small arms and related crimes, adopted by the Council of Ministers at the nineteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community, held at Maputo on 17 and 18 August 1999,[64] the initiative taken by States members of the Economic Community of West African States in declaring a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa,[39] and the adoption by the European Union of the Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Conventional Arms and the other initiatives it has taken, such as the Joint Action on Small Arms[65] that has been endorsed by several Member States not members of the European Union,

Welcoming also the assistance provided by Member States in support of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives aimed at addressing illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Mindful of the impact of surplus small arms and light weapons on the illicit trade in these weapons, and welcoming the practical measures taken by Member States to destroy surplus weapons and confiscated or collected weapons, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his reports on small arms,[66]

Recognizing the human suffering caused by illicit trafficking in small arms and that Governments bear the responsibility to intensify their efforts by developing an understanding of the issues and practical ways of addressing the problem,

Bearing in mind the interface between violence, criminality, drug trafficking and terrorism and illicit trafficking in small arms,

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[61] A/54/404 and Add.1.

[62] A/54/424, annex II, decision AHG/Dec.137 (XXXV).

[63] See A/53/78, annex.

[64] A/54/488-S/1999/1082, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1082.

[65] A/54/374, annex.

[66] A/52/298 and A/54/258.

Stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to elaborate an international convention against transnational organized crime, including a protocol to combat the illicit manufacturing of and illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, within the framework of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Considering that the United Nations could, through a coordinated approach, collect, share and disseminate information to Member States on useful and successful practices to prevent the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, and mindful of the role of the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in this regard,

Emphasizing the importance of increased cooperation and coordination both among the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies and within the Secretariat through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms in its ongoing initiatives related to illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons,

Noting with appreciation the workshops on illicit trafficking in small arms, held at Lomé and Lima, organized, respectively by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Conscious of its decision to convene an international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects no later than 2001,[67] and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms,[28] as well as the views of Member States on the objectives, scope, agenda, dates and venue of such an international conference,[68]

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and to submit to the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects information on the magnitude and scope of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, measures to combat illicit trafficking in and circulation of small arms and light weapons, and the role of the United Nations in collecting, collating, sharing and disseminating information on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote regional and subregional initiatives and requests the Secretary-General, within available financial resources, and States in a position to do so to assist States in taking such initiatives to address the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in affected regions, and invites the Secretary-General to utilize these initiatives as part of his consultations;

3. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to take appropriate national measures to destroy surplus small arms and light weapons, confiscated or collected small arms and light weapons, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on the types and quantities destroyed;

4. *Invites* Member States in a position to do so to continue to provide assistance, bilaterally, regionally and through multilateral channels, such as the United Nations, in support of measures associated with combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons;

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[67] See resolution 53/77 E.

[68] A/54/260.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Illicit traffic in small arms".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

S

OBSERVANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS IN THE DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 M of 12 December 1995, 51/45 E of 10 December 1996, 52/38 E of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 J of 4 December 1998,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary to take duly into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

1. *Reaffirms* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should fully contribute to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties;

2. *Calls upon* States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the information provided by Member States on the implementation of the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution;[69]

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[69] A/54/163 and Add.1.

4. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report containing this information to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

T

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[12] concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[70]

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994, 50/70 G of 12 December 1995, 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, 52/38 D of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 K of 4 December 1998,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[55]

Taking note of the deliberations during the symposium on disarmament and development held at Headquarters on 20 July 1999,[71]

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the Secretary-General,[72] and welcomes the establishment, as a first step by the Secretary-General, of the Steering Group on Disarmament and Development with the purpose of determining the short, medium and long-term priorities, according to the mandate set out in the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;[73]

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[70] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

[71] See A/54/254, paras. 11 and 12.

[72] A/54/254.

[73] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.

2. *Urges* the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. *Invites* all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 2000, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

U

CONVENING OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994, 50/70 F of 12 December 1995, 51/45 C of 10 December 1996, 52/38 F of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 AA of 4 December 1998,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[12] adopted by consensus at the first special session devoted to disarmament, which included the Declaration, the Programme of Action and the Machinery for disarmament,

Bearing in mind also the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Taking note of paragraph 145 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[55] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international

situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

Taking note also of the report of the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission[74] and of the fact that no consensus was reached on the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",

Desiring to build upon the substantive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1999 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Noting that, with the recent accomplishments made by the international community in the field of weapons of mass destruction as well as conventional arms, the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. *Decides*, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of States Members of the United Nations on the objectives, agenda and timing of the special session and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

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[74] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

V

SMALL ARMS

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 B of 12 December 1995, 52/38 J of 9 December 1997 and 53/77 E of 4 December 1998,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Recognizing the importance of the role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in preventing and reducing the excessive and destabilizing accumulations of small arms and light weapons,

Convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach to promote, at the global and regional levels, the control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner as a contribution to international peace and security,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1209 (1998) of 19 November 1998 on illicit arms flows to and in Africa and the statement by the President of the Security Council of 24 September 1999 on behalf of the Council in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Small arms",[35]

Taking note of the complementarity of the efforts to prevent and reduce the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including a protocol to combat illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition,

Reaffirming the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves,

Reaffirming also the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, *inter alia*, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[75]

Concerned about the wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences affecting, in particular, large segments of civilian populations, exacerbated by the illicit trafficking in and the ready availability of small arms and light weapons,

Also concerned about the close link between terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, on the one hand, and the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, on the other, and stressing the importance of international efforts aimed at combating them,

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[75] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N",[29]

Also welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J,[28]

Bearing in mind the note by the Secretary-General on the consultations held with a group of qualified experts to examine the feasibility of carrying out a study on restricting the manufacture and trade of small arms to manufacturers and dealers authorized by States[76] and also his report on the broad-based consultations held by him pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/77 T of 4 December 1998,[61]

Noting the replies received to date to the request by the Secretary-General to Member States for their views on his report on small arms to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session[77] and on the steps that they have taken to implement its recommendations, in particular, the recommendation concerning the convening of an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects,[68]

Taking due note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,[78]

Welcoming with appreciation the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the international conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects to be convened no later than 2001[68] and the relevant recommendations contained in his report on small arms,[28]

Welcoming the offer by the Government of Switzerland to host at Geneva, no later than 2001, an international conference on the illicit arms trade in all its aspects,

1. *Decides* to convene the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in June/July 2001;

2. *Also decides* that the scope of the Conference shall be the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

3. *Further decides* to establish a preparatory committee open to participation by all States, which will hold no fewer than three sessions, the first session to be held in New York from 28 February to 3 March 2000;

4. *Decides* that the specialized agencies, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and relevant entities, having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and in the work of the General Assembly, shall participate, as observers, in the Preparatory Committee, and requests the Committee to take a decision on the modalities of attendance of non-governmental organizations at its sessions;

5. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to decide, at its first session, on the date and venue of the Conference in 2001 as well as on the dates and venue of its subsequent sessions;

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[76] A/54/160.

[77] A/52/298, annex.

[78] See A/54/155.

6. *Stresses* the need to ensure the widest possible and effective participation in the Conference in 2001;

7. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to make recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the objective, a draft agenda, draft rules of procedure and draft final documents, which will include a programme of action, and to decide on background documents to be made available in advance;

8. *Invites* all Member States, in particular those that have not yet done so, in response to the note verbale of the Secretary-General dated 20 January 1999, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the agenda and other relevant questions relating to the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the replies of Member States relevant to paragraph 8 above to the Preparatory Committee and to render to the Preparatory Committee and the Conference all necessary assistance, including the provision of essential background information, relevant documents and summary records;

10. *Endorses* the report of the Secretary-General on small arms, prepared with the assistance of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/38 J,[28] bearing in mind the views of Member States on the report;

11. *Calls upon* all Member States to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of that report to the extent possible and where necessary in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations and/or through international and regional cooperation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the report as well as on the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained therein;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to implement the relevant recommendations contained in section IV of the report within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by States in a position to do so and in cooperation with appropriate international and regional organizations where necessary;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to assist in preventing the illicit trafficking in and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons:

(*a*) To carry out a study, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, and with the assistance of governmental experts appointed by him, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, while seeking the views of Member States, on the feasibility of restricting the manufacture and trade of such weapons to the manufacturers and dealers authorized by States, which will cover the brokering activities, particularly illicit activities, relating to small arms and light weapons, including transportation agents and financial transactions;

(*b*) To submit the study as one of the background documents for the Conference to be held in 2001;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Small arms".

80th plenary meeting
15 December 1999

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/55
7 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 77

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/564) and A/54/L.39*]

54/55. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES: ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996, 52/39 B of 9 December 1997 and 53/78 A of 4 December 1998,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international security,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Recalling the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[1] the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa,[2] and the Yaoundé Declaration on Peace, Security and Stability in Central Africa,[3]

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4]

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa,

Recalling the decision of the fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee in favour of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[5] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 53/78 A;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992;

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[1] A/50/474, annex I.

[2] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1998*, document S/1998/763.

[3] A/53/868-S/1999/303, annex II; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1999*, document S/1999/303.

[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

[5] A/54/364.

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in implementing the programme of activities for the period 1998-1999, in particular by:

(*a*) Holding a joint meeting of ministers of defence and of the interior at Libreville from 28 to 30 April 1998 on questions of security in Central Africa;

(*b*) Organizing the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, at Bata, Equatorial Guinea, from 18 to 21 May 1998;

(*c*) Holding a Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures for the Consolidation of Peace for Senior Military and Civilian Officials at Yaoundé, from 27 to 31 July 1998;

(*d*) Organizing the Subregional High-level Seminar on the Examination and Implementation of the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, at Yaoundé, from 19 to 21 July 1999;

(*e*) Holding the tenth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at Yaoundé from 26 to 30 October 1998;

(*f*) Holding the eleventh ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at Yaoundé from 21 to 23 July 1999;

(*g*) Organizing a subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in light weapons and small arms in Central Africa at N'Djamena from 25 to 27 October 1999;

(*h*) Holding the twelfth ministerial meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee at N'Djamena from 27 to 30 October 1999;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of providing the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at the ninth and tenth ministerial meetings, in particular the organization of joint military exercises to simulate peacekeeping operations;

6. *Welcomes* the creation of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa, to be known as the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, by the summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central African countries, held at Yaoundé on 25 February 1999, and requests the Secretary-General to give his full support to the realization of that priority objective;

7. *Also welcomes* the decision of the heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States, meeting at Malabo on 24 June 1999, to integrate the Council into the Community and to establish a network of parliamentarians from the Community with a view to the eventual creation of a parliament of the Community;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to make the early-warning mechanism in Central Africa operational so that it will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts and, on the

other hand, as a technical body through which the member States will carry out the work programme of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting held at Yaoundé in 1992, and requests the Secretary-General to provide it with the assistance necessary for it to function properly;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with the necessary support in making operational the early-warning mechanism and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to support the establishment of a network of parliamentarians with a view to the creation of a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide increased assistance to the countries of Central Africa for coping with the problems of refugees in their territories;

13. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

14. *Appeals* to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the activities referred to in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above;

15. *Calls upon* the international community, non-governmental organizations and the mass media to support the dissemination of objective information on Central Africa;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry on their efforts;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

B

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN AFRICA

The General Assembly,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolutions 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 53/78 C of 4 December 1998,

Aware of the widespread support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre and the important role that the Centre can play in the present context in promoting confidence-building and arms limitation measures at the regional level, thereby promoting progress in the area of sustainable development,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4]

Bearing in mind the efforts undertaken in the framework of the revitalization of the activities of the Regional Centre for the mobilization of the resources necessary for its operational costs,

Taking into account the need to establish close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity, in conformity with the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held at Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[7] and commends the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in particular in support of the efforts made by the African States in the areas of peace and security;

2. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the revitalization of the Regional Centre, and emphasizes the need to provide it with resources to enable it to strengthen its activities and carry out its programmes;

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[6] See A/54/424, annex II.

[7] A/54/332 and Add.1.

3. *Appeals once again* to all States, as well as to international governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programmes of activities of the Regional Centre and facilitate their implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, for better achievements and results;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the establishment of close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Organization of African Unity, in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities;

6. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

C

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[8] in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre remains valid and that the Centre could be a useful instrument for fostering a climate of cooperation in the post-cold-war era,

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the

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[8] A/54/255 and Add.1.

promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Nagasaki in 1998 and at Kathmandu, Kyoto and Ulaanbaatar in 1999,

Welcoming the idea of the possible creation of an educational and training programme for peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for young people with different backgrounds, to be financed from voluntary contributions,

Noting the important role of the Regional Centre in assisting region-specific initiatives of Member States, including its assistance in the work related to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia,

Appreciating highly the important role that Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

1. *Reaffirms* its strong support for the continuing operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

2. *Underscores* the importance of the Kathmandu process as a powerful vehicle for the development of the practice of region-wide security and disarmament dialogue;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the continuing political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions, the only resources of the Regional Centre, to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation thereof;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking note of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, to provide the Regional Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, in carrying out its programme of activities;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to initiate consultations with the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal as well as with other Member States concerned and interested organizations to assess the possibility of enabling the Centre to operate effectively from Kathmandu;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

69th plenary meeting

1 December 1999

D

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*,[9]

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[10] it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, with a specified framework of time,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1999 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/78 D of 4 December 1998,

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[9] A/51/218, annex.

[10] Resolution S-10/2.

1. *Reiterates its request* to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

E

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRES FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/78 F of 4 December 1998 regarding the maintenance and revitalization of the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament,

Recalling also the reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa,[7] the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific[8] and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,[11] and welcoming the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Director of the Centre for Africa and the Director of the Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Reaffirming its decision, taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, to establish the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, the purpose of which is to inform, educate and generate public understanding and support for the objectives of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament,[12]

Bearing in mind its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989 on the regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,

Recognizing that the changes that have taken place in the world have created new opportunities as well as posed new challenges for the pursuit of disarmament and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the regional centres for peace and disarmament can contribute substantially to understanding and cooperation among the States in each particular region in the areas of peace, disarmament and development,

Noting that in paragraph 146 of the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998, the

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[11] A/54/310 and Add.1.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

heads of State or Government welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly on maintaining and revitalizing the three regional centres for peace and disarmament in Nepal, Peru and Togo,[13]

1. *Reiterates* the importance of the United Nations activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centres for peace and disarmament;

2. *Reaffirms* that, in order to achieve positive results, it is useful for the three regional centres to carry out dissemination and educational programmes that promote regional peace and security aimed at changing basic attitudes with respect to peace and security and disarmament so as to support the achievement of the principles and purposes of the United Nations;

3. *Appeals* to Member States in each region and those that are able to do so, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the regional centres in their respective regions to strengthen their programmes of activities and implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament".

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1 December 1999

F

UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, 42/39 K of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 H of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

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[13] A/53/667-S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

Recalling also its resolutions 46/37 F of 9 December 1991, 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994, 50/71 C of 12 December 1995, 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and 53/78 F of 4 December 1998,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[11] in which he expresses his belief that the Regional Centre can make an important contribution to the exchange of information on peace, disarmament and development issues among Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and various sectors of civil society in the region,

Noting that security and disarmament issues have always been recognized as transcendent topics in Latin America and the Caribbean, the first inhabited region in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Welcoming the revitalization of the Centre, the efforts made by the Government of Peru to that end and the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General,

Keeping in mind the important role the Centre can play in promoting confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, disarmament and development at the regional level,

Expressing its appreciation to the Centre for organizing the international workshop on the theme "Illicit trafficking in small arms: Latin American and Caribbean issues", successfully held in Lima from 23 to 25 June 1999,

Bearing in mind the importance of information, research, education and training for peace, disarmament and development in order to achieve understanding and cooperation among States,

Recognizing the need to provide the three United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament with sufficient financial resources for the planning and implementation of their programmes of activities,

1. *Reiterates* its strong support of the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to increase peace, stability, security and development among its Member States;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the reinitiation of the activities of the Regional Centre, with headquarters in Lima;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the political support and financial contributions to the Regional Centre, which are essential for its continued operation;

4. *Urges* all the States of the region to make greater use of the potential of the Centre to meet the current challenges facing the international community, with a view to fulfilling the aims of the Charter of the United Nations regarding peace, disarmament and development;

5. *Appeals* to Member States, in particular those within the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and the implementation thereof;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, so that it may carry out its programme of activities and attain better results;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean".

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A/RES/54/56
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 78

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/565)*]

54/56. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

A

REPORT OF THE DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997 and 53/79 A of 4 December 1998,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

Bearing in mind its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Commends* the Disarmament Commission for the successful conclusion of its consideration of the items entitled "The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned" and "Guidelines on conventional arms control/limitation and disarmament, with particular emphasis on consolidation of peace in the context of General Assembly resolution 51/45 N of 10 December 1996", and endorses the consensus texts adopted thereon;

3. *Notes with regret* that the Disarmament Commission was not able to reach a consensus on the item entitled "The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament";

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

5. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 1999 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 2000 substantive session:

(*a*) To be considered at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission;[4]

(*b*) To be considered at the organizational session of the Disarmament Commission;[4]

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2000 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[5] together with all the official records of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

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[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

[4] In accordance with General Assembly decision 52/492.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/54/27).

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

69th plenary meeting
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B

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[5]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing, in this respect, the need for additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Noting that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues to negotiate,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on 5 August 1999 to admit five new members,[6] and notes that the Conference recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of its membership;

4. *Also welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference on Disarmament in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2000 session;

5. *Further welcomes* the undertaking by the current President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations jointly with the incoming President during the inter-sessional period to try to achieve this goal, as expressed in his statement contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Conference;[5]

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[6] Ibid., para. 16.

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

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1 December 1999

B

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[5]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing, in this respect, the need for additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

Noting that the Conference on Disarmament has a number of urgent and important issues to negotiate,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Urges* the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference on Disarmament on 5 August 1999 to admit five new members,[6] and notes that the Conference recognizes the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of its membership;

4. *Also welcomes* the strong collective interest of the Conference on Disarmament in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2000 session;

5. *Further welcomes* the undertaking by the current President of the Conference on Disarmament to conduct consultations jointly with the incoming President during the inter-sessional period to try to achieve this goal, as expressed in his statement contained in paragraph 38 of the report of the Conference;[5]

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[6] Ibid., para. 16.

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A/RES/54/57
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/566)*]

54/57. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its relevant resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(43)/RES/23 adopted on 1 October 1999,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the immediate need to place all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[1] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal adherence to the Treaty[2] and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

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[1] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[1] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet parties to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 51/48 of 10 December 1996, Israel remains the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Concerned about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region,

Stressing the importance of taking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to enhance peace and security in the region and to consolidate the global non-proliferation regime,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[3] and its signature by one hundred and fifty-five States, including a number of States in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the only State in the region that is not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] to accede to the Treaty without further delay and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

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[3] See resolution 50/245.

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A/RES/54/58
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 80

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/567)*]

54/58. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/81 of 4 December 1998 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[1]

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[1] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[1] and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[1] which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

[1] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, on 13 October 1995 of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[2] and on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[3]

Recalling that the States parties at the Review Conference declared their commitment to keeping the provisions of Protocol II under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems of landmines,

Recalling also the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Welcoming the additional ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to the Convention, as well as the ratifications and acceptances of or accessions to amended Protocol II and Protocol IV,

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the decision adopted by the Review Conference in its Final Declaration[4] on 3 May 1996 to convene a Review Conference no later than 2001,

Noting that, in accordance with article 13 of amended Protocol II, a conference of States parties to that Protocol shall be held annually for the purpose of consultations and cooperation on all issues relating to the Protocol,

Noting also that the provisional rules of procedure of the First Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II provide for the invitation of States not parties to the Protocol, the International Committee of the Red Cross and interested non-governmental organizations to take part in the Conference,

I

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[2] entered into force on 30 July 1998, commends it to all States with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[1] that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

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[2] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex A.

[3] Ibid., annex B.

[4] Ibid., annex C.

2. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 3 December 1998 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[3] and calls, in particular, upon all States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol;

3. *Notes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the First Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, in accordance with article 13 thereof, and welcomes in this context the successful Preparatory Meeting held by the States parties on 25 and 26 May 1999;

II

1. *Calls upon* all States parties that have not yet done so to notify the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[1] and the Protocols thereto, of their consent to be bound by the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[2] and by the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II);[3]

2. *Welcomes* the convening, from 15 to 17 December 1999, of the First Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II, in accordance with article 13 thereof;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties to amended Protocol II to address at the Conference, *inter alia*, the issue of holding the second annual conference in 2000;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the second annual conference of States parties to amended Protocol II and the preparatory committee for the conference;

III

1. *Recalls* the decision of States parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[1] to convene the next review conference no later than 2001, preceded by the preparatory committee;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention and the preparatory committee for the Review Conference;

3. *Urgently calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and the Protocols thereto, and in particular to the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[3] with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, to continue to inform the General Assembly periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accession to the Convention and the Protocols thereto;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

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A/RES/54/59
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 81

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/568)*]

54/59. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 53/82 of 4 December 1998,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing also the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security, and their growing awareness of the need for further joint efforts to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[1]

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Commends* the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity, and encourages them to strengthen such efforts through, *inter alia*, a lasting multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region;

4. *Recognizes* that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development and other obstacles, as well as respect and greater understanding among cultures, in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. *Calls upon* all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

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[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[2] A/54/261.

6. *Encourages* all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, *inter alia*, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures and by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;[3]

7. *Encourages* the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

8. *Invites* all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

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[3] See resolution 46/36 L.

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A/RES/54/60
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 82

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/569)*]

54/60. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[1] was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

Noting with satisfaction the holding on 14 February 1997 of the eleventh special session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

Recalling that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Recalling further that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments[2] to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,[1] with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Recalling resolution CIE/RES 27 of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,[3] in which the Council called for the promotion of cooperation and consultations with other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Noting with satisfaction that the Treaty of Tlatelolco is now in force for thirty-two sovereign States of the region,

Also noting with satisfaction that on 18 January 1999 Colombia and on 20 January 1999 Costa Rica deposited their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V) of 3 July 1990, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (E-VII) of 26 August 1992,

Further noting with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela,

1. *Welcomes* the concrete steps taken by some countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);[1]

2. *Urges* the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V), 268 (XII) and 290 (E-VII);

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

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[2] A/47/467, annex.

[3] See CD/1392.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/61
31 December 1999

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 83

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/570)*]

54/61. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and forty-three States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

Recalling its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[3] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to the participation of all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[4] the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[3] and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

Recalling further the Final Document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Durban, South Africa, from 29 August to 3 September 1998,[5] in which the heads of State or Government noted the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol, stressed the importance of achieving further substantive progress for the conclusion of a universally acceptable and legally binding instrument designed to strengthen the Convention and reaffirmed the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference,

Welcoming the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[6] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

Recalling the declaration of the informal ministerial meeting, held in New York on 23 September 1998, in which the participants and the co-sponsors affirmed their strong support for the Convention and for strengthening its effectiveness and improving its implementation,

Bearing in mind the forthcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the signature of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[7] and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction on 26 March 1975,

1. *Welcomes* the progress achieved so far in the negotiation of a protocol to strengthen the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] and reaffirms the decision of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to

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[3] BWC/SPCONF/1.

[4] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[5] A/53/667–S/1998/1071, annex I; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1071.

[6] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.

[7] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and urging it to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;[8]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention, and reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention, duly noting the forthcoming anniversary of the twenty-fifth year of the entry into force of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all States parties, in this context, to accelerate the negotiations and to redouble their efforts within the Ad Hoc Group to formulate an efficient, cost-effective and practical regime and to seek an early resolution of the outstanding issues through renewed flexibility in order to complete the protocol on the basis of consensus at the earliest possible date;

4. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference;[2]

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained in the final report of the Special Conference,[3] including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group and the special conference that is to consider the report of the Ad Hoc Group, in accordance with its mandate, as confirmed by the Fourth Review Conference;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

69th plenary meeting
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[8] See BWC/CONF.IV/9.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/62
10 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 84

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/571)*]

54/62. Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Affirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

Recalling its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997 and 53/71 of 4 December 1998,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities and activities by all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation, economic development, observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness of the South-Eastern European region,

Being aware of the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressing, *inter alia*, the role and responsibilities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the Kosovo Force, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in that regard,

Noting the direct negative repercussions of the Kosovo crisis on the economy of the region and, in particular, on the Republic of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a consequence of the hosting of such a large number of refugees by them,

Welcoming the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe initiated by the European Union, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and stressing the crucial importance of its adequate and timely implementation,

Taking note of the Sarajevo Summit Declaration, in which the participants affirm their collective and individual readiness to give concrete meaning to the Pact by promoting political and economic reforms, development and enhanced security in the region and also their commitment to make every effort to assist countries in the region in making speedy and measurable progress along this road,

Noting, inter alia, the importance of the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe,

1. *Affirms* the urgency of consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation, economic development, observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe;

2. *Calls upon* all participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, and all concerned international organizations, to support the efforts of South-Eastern European States to overcome the negative effects of the Kosovo crisis and to enable them to pursue sustainable development and integration of their economies into the European and global economy;

3. *Affirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations and for strict compliance with the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders of any State;

4. *Urges* the normalization of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe and the strengthening of their mutual cooperation on the basis of respect of international law and agreements and within the principle of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

5. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, the solution of problems among States and the promotion of international cooperation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Calls upon* all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

8. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security, and notes with satisfaction, in this regard, the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe, the headquarters of which, located at Plovdiv, Bulgaria, has become operational;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures;

10. *Stresses* that closer engagement of the South-Eastern European States in furthering cooperation on the European continent will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as the good-neighbourly relations among the Balkan States;

11. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe".

69th plenary meeting
1 December 1999

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/54/63
10 January 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 85

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/54/572)*]

54/63. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996 and opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Noting that the first Meeting of the States Signatories adopted resolution CTBT/MSS/RES/1 on 19 November 1996, thereby establishing the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,

Noting also that by decision 53/422 of 4 December 1998, it decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty",

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and fifty-five States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming also the ratification of fifty-one States, including twenty-six of the forty-four needed for its entry into force,

Welcoming the convening of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at Vienna from 6 to 8 October 1999 to promote the entry into force of the Treaty at the earliest possible date,

1. *Endorses* the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty[1] and, in particular:

(*a*) Calls upon all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its object and purpose in the meanwhile;

(*b*) Calls upon all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their early successful conclusion;

2. *Urges* all States to sustain the momentum generated by the Conference by continuing to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

3. *Welcomes* the contributions by States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty at entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

4. *Urges* States to maintain their moratoria on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

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[1] A/54/514–S/1999/1102, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*, document S/1999/1102.